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Hi everyone,

This weeks adventures included Erik from Canada, Sonya from Switzerland and Jacqueline from Pennsylvania. All three had told me that they barely had ridden before, which as many of you know can actually be a blessing. It got me thinking about starting with this way of horsemanship compared to finding it after ridding a different way for so long. Many people and horses that have operated in other disciplines sometimes have a different learning curve than people that start out this way. It can be hard to let go of old habits. Green riders tend to pick up



proper use of the leg pretty quickly. For example, Sonya was timid to have Hollywood move out at a walk on Tuesday afternoon, but by Friday was loping straight out of her tracks.

This type of learning curve is similar to a green horse. We have been riding many horses for clients some have been ridden a lot prior to coming and some haven't. The ones that haven't seem to offer proper movement out of innocence, whereas the ones that have can hold on to braces longer. One colt in our client horse



program can already rate to your body after six rides. Jacqueline who had Buster Malone trotting and changing directions with only the shift of her pelvis, said that she constantly had to tell herself before each transition to open up her seat instead of squeezing. It was a good combination of skill by the end of the week as everyone ended up having something that they really became good at. Erik in particular figured out how to really sit a good stop and had Dandy sliding both hind feet with a soft feel.

Other things happening around the ranch include Nathan rebuilding chimneys, Stephen working on the John Deere hay mower, and Chuck trimming some young colts in our main herd. Cody cut down a beautiful Christmas tree that Miriam decorated to get us in the Holiday mood. JJ even hung decorated grain bags instead of stockings to make an appropriate ranch Christmas!

Happy Holidays everyone,
Roby